

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 44 through 48, 153, 157, 159 and 160.

Claims 6, 35, 36, 37 and 58 have been amended in accordance with 37 CFR 1.173(d) as follows herein.

Claim 6. (three times amended) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:

a plurality of successive printing stations for printing color images on a substrate in a continuous in-line process;

one of said printing stations comprising a first offset flexographic printing station for printing an aqueous-based vehicle image using the flexographic process to form a metallic coating on said substrate;

a suspended metallic material being included in said aqueous-based vehicle image; [and]

a dryer disposed downstream of said first flexographic printing station in the direction of movement of said substrate with respect to said printing stations for treating said aqueous-based vehicle image; and

at least one of the successive printing stations comprising an offset lithographic printing station downstream of said dryer for printing a color image over the aqueous-based vehicle image using the offset lithographic process in said continuous in-line process.

Claim 35. (amended) A method as in claim 34 [further including] wherein the step of printing said coating comprises printing an aqueous-based coating over said slurry.

Claim 36. (amended) A method as in claim 34 [further including] wherein the step of printing said coating comprises printing an ultraviolet coating over said slurry.

Claim 37. (twice amended) A method of combining offset lithography and flexographic printing in a continuous in-line process comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

applying a flexographic ink to a blanket cylinder in a pattern with a coating head at a first flexographic printing station;

transferring said pattern of flexographic ink from said blanket cylinder to the substrate;

transferring said substrate to a second flexographic printing station;

applying a pattern of flexographic ink to the substrate using the second flexographic printing station; and

printing a waterless ink pattern over at least one of said flexographic ink [pattern] patterns on said substrate using at least one subsequent offset lithographic printing station in said continuous in-line process.

Claim 58. (five times amended) Apparatus for a combined lithographic/flexographic printing process comprising:

a plurality of successive printing stations for depositing a series of images on a substrate in a continuous in-line process, said printing stations including both lithographic and two flexographic printing stations;

a blanket cylinder at a first one of said flexographic printing stations;

a plate cylinder at said first one of said flexographic stations; and

a flexographic plate on said plate cylinder for receiving and transferring flexographic ink to said blanket cylinder;

a flexographic ink supply and an anilox roller associated with said flexographic ink supply for transferring flexographic ink to said flexographic plate and then to said blanket cylinder to form a first image on one side of a substrate;

a substrate for receiving said first image transferred from said blanket cylinder; and

at least one subsequent lithographic printing station in said in-line process for receiving said substrate and printing an additional colored ink image on said substrate on top of said first image.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 5 are previously patented claims, are pending in this application and are allowed.

Claim 6, previously patented, has been rejected and remains in this application currently amended.

Claims 7 and 8, previously patented, remain dependent on Claim 6 and have been rejected.

Claim 9, previously patented, remains in this application, has been previously amended and has been rejected.

Claim 10, previously patented, remains in this application, has been previously amended and has been rejected.

Claim 11, previously patented, remains pending in this application, has been previously amended and has been rejected.

Claims 12 through 14, previously patented, are pending in this application and are allowed.

Claims 15 and 16, previously patented, remain pending, have been previously amended and have been rejected.

Claim 17, previously patented, remains pending in this application, has been previously amended and has been rejected.

Claims 18 through 20, previously patented, depend from Claim 17, and have been rejected.

Claim 21, previously patented and previously amended, remains pending and has been rejected.

Claims 22 and 23, previously patented, remain pending unamended and have been rejected.

Claims 24 and 25, previously patented, and previously amended, remain pending and have been rejected.

Claims 26 through 28, previously patented, remain pending unamended, and have been rejected.

Claim 29, previously patented and previously amended, remains pending and has been rejected.

Claim 30, previously patented, dependent on Claim 29, remains pending unamended and has been rejected.

Claim 31 has been canceled.

Claims 32 through 34, previously patented, previously amended, remain pending and have been rejected.

Claims 35 and 36, previously patented, remain pending as amended herein and have been rejected.

Claim 37, previously patented, is amended herein and has been rejected.

Claim 38, previously patented and previously amended, remains pending and has been rejected.

Claims 39 through 41 are previously patented claims, are pending in this application and have been allowed.

Claims 42 through 57 have been canceled.

Claim 58, currently amended, remains pending and has been rejected.

Claims 59 through 81 have been canceled.

Claim 82, previously amended, remains pending and has been allowed.

Claims 83 and 84 remain depending from Claim 82, and have been allowed.

Claims 85 through 153 have been canceled.

Claim 154, previously amended, remains pending and has been rejected.

Claim 155 has been canceled.

Claim 156 remains pending and has been rejected.

Claim 157 has been canceled.

Claim 158 remains pending and has been rejected.

Claims 159 and 160 have been canceled.

Claims 161 through 164 remain pending and have been rejected.